

## Unbridled Spirit Remains the Siren Call for Scholarship

Britney Joe Prewitt had a smile that was both endearing and somewhat impish . . . letting you know that, with a twinkle in those brown eyes, she had something on her mind and whatever it was, was bound to be good.

That is what is best remembered about Britney, who tragically passed away in 2007 at age 17, and that is why the Britney Joe Unbridled Spirit Scholarship was established by the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association (KyQHA) awarded through an American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Foundation Endowment.

Her vibrant personality and enthusiasm in all she was involved in led her to be a member of the varsity cheerleading squad at Nelson County High School in Bardstown, Kentucky, where she was also a member of the Future Farmers of America.

Her favorite buddy, though, was the bright sorrel mare, Goodtime Candy, a daughter of Goodtime Sonny Dee and out of Watch My Legs by Zippo Jack Bar. She and her sister, Missy, showed the mare in KyQHA and American Quarter Horse Association youth competition, finding success in showmanship, western pleasure, western horsemanship, halter, trail, and hunt seat equitation. Goodtime Candy was just the type of horse the sisters could share and needed.



Britney was also a magnet when it came to her fellow youth in the KyQHA, who were drawn to her infectious personality and her desire to see those around her being included in the activities and fun of the group. Because of that, some of her contemporaries involved with the KyQHA decided their way to honor a friend would best be served by challenging the KyQHA to a monumental project the likes of which was never before undertaken by the group.

Colin Luba, a past president of the Kentucky Quarter Horse Youth Association (KyQHYA) along with the then KyQHYA president, Jillian Craddock, and later to be president of KyQHYA Christopher Luba got together and researched the AQHA Foundation as the vehicle to achieve their dreams for Britney. They researched the Foundation Scholarship programs and were humbled to learn that it would take the generation of \$100,000 to establish a Kentucky endowed scholarship. Colin said, "Efforts by many of our predecessors in KyQHYA, like Rusty Rea, Becky Rea and Ryan Corbin, regularly showed us how the KyQHYA could generate – through fundraising and conducting AQHA shows – scholarship dollars that benefited Kentucky youths. So there was a little seed money to get us started and we knew if we set our mind to it, we could get it done." But according to Jillian, one of Britney's closest friends, "we knew it would take a lot of work, but once we achieved our goal, it would be something that we all could be proud of and I know that it would please Britney. According to Christopher, "we wanted to endow future youths in the KyQHYA, but we realized that it was a huge project and we would need participation by our most active

members, like Maggie Downen and Clayton Jerrell (both of whom became future KyQHYA presidents) to contribute to the efforts.”

Thus the process of endowing the scholarship began, conceived by Colin, initiated during the tenure of Jillian as president, and formalized under the presidency of Christopher, that which was once only a dream, like the twinkle in the eye of Britney, became reality. Finally, in 2015, with the help of the KyQHA making the final contribution to the fundraising efforts, the goal of \$100,000 was achieved. All three past presidents indicated there were some role models along the way, those being, “our mentors in the KyQHYA that set an example for us younger kids.”

“This scholarship can provide significant assistance to those who are currently in school and facing the rising cost of books and tuition,” said KyQHA President and AQHA Director Cheryllee Sargent. “The naming of this scholarship as Unbridled Spirit is perfect as it is so reflective of what Britney brought to our youth program, and how her parents, Joe and Eva, were when it came to being a part of our Quarter Horse family. Having that spirit live on through this scholarship is such a gift to the youth who have made the American Quarter Horse an important part of their lives just as Britney did.”

The scholarship is designed to foster and recognize that same kind of attitude among youth in Kentucky. It awards a whopping \$5,000 in the form of two \$2,500 scholarships to Kentucky youth who have demonstrated a clear responsibility and affection for their horses by the promotion of the Kentucky Quarter Horse Youth Association and its programs. The Association offers its members participation on its All-American Quarter Horse Congress National Youth Association Team Tournament, as well as the AQHYA Youth World Championship Show team. Special events, like the KyQHYA Southern Showcase, offer additional scholarships for those competing as well as those who are placed on the Honor Roll in their respective schools.

Candidates must apply as a college sophomore in anticipation of continuing their junior and senior years as an undergraduate enrolled at an accredited college or university of their choice. Students must be a Kentucky resident with at least two years of membership in the KyQHYA, one year of which must be their last eligible year of youth, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

For additional criteria on this scholarship and information on the American Quarter Horse Foundation scholarship program, visit: [aqha.com/foundation](http://aqha.com/foundation). Questions concerning the application and selection process are encouraged and should be directed American Quarter Horse Foundation Scholarship Program:

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